

PROPOSAL F2003-26

Existing regulation: Southeast Alaska Area - Steelhead Trout

§____.27(i)(13)(iv) You may take steelhead trout on Prince of Wales Island only under the terms of a Federal subsistence fishing permit. The annual harvest limit is two fish, 36 inches or larger. You may use only a dip net or rod and reel with artificial lure or fly. You may not use bait.

Proposed regulation: Southeast Alaska Area - Steelhead Trout

§____.27(i)(13)(iv) You may take steelhead trout on Prince of Wales Island only under the terms of a Federal subsistence fishing permit. The annual harvest limit is two fish, 36 inches or larger. You may use only a dip net or rod and reel with artificial lure or fly. You may not use bait. All steelhead trout fishing in Unit 2, Prince of Wales Island will be closed until such time as it has been determined that enough steelhead trout exist to support a customary and traditional steelhead fishery for Federally qualified users.

Reason for changing the regulation: Federally qualified users are being denied customary and traditional rights to take steelhead trout under the current regulation. Title VIII, Section 804 of ANILCA states “the taking on public lands of fish and wildlife for non-wasteful subsistence uses shall be accorded priority over the taking on such lands of fish and wildlife for other purposes. When it is necessary to restrict the taking of populations of fish and wildlife on such lands for subsistence uses to protect the continued viability of such populations, or to continue such uses, such priority shall be implemented through appropriate limitations based on application of the following criteria: 1) customary and direct dependence upon the populations as the mainstay of livelihood; 2) local residency; and 3) the availability of other resources.”

The Federal Subsistence Board rejected a previous steelhead proposal (FP02-40) on “conservation grounds, finding that the proposed change might adversely impact the steelhead resource in heavily used areas.” Since conservation is a concern with Unit 2 steelhead, then all users should be restricted until the resource is capable of supporting a directed subsistence fishery to meet the requirements of Section 804 of ANILCA.

Effect of change on fish or shellfish populations:

Effect of change on subsistence users: The proposal would benefit Federally qualified subsistence users by allowing opportunity to harvest steelhead trout at the time steelhead trout populations are identified as capable of supporting a subsistence fishery.

Additional Information:

Proposed by: Craig Community Association, Craig